

the first two minority partners with the law firm of Vinson & Elkins in Houston. Judge Gonzales is extremely qualified to serve as our Nation's Attorney General.

Born in 1955 in San Antonio, Texas, to Maria and Pablo Gonzales, two Mexican-American migrant workers, Judge Gonzales learned firsthand the meaning of hard work, determination, and integrity at a young age. He was the first in his family to attend college, continued on to Harvard Law School, served in the United States Air Force, and later attended the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence that upon Senate confirmation, Judge Gonzales will help protect Americans from terrorism while also protecting our rights as the Nation's chief law enforcement officer. He will continue working to bring those who commit corporate fraud to justice, reforming the FBI, and building on the Bush administration's success in reducing crime.

It is an honor to support Judge Gonzales. He is an outstanding Mexican-American, an outstanding example of the American Dream, and we will be proud of his service to our Nation as our Attorney General.

CONGRATULATING BOZEMAN, MONTANA

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to one of my favorite cities in America: Bozeman, Montana. Nestled in the scenic Bridger mountain range, Bozeman draws visitors from around the world for its first-class outdoor recreational activities. Yet it is more than a gateway to Montana's natural splendor. It is a dynamic center of commerce.

A recent study by the American Cities Business Journal named Bozeman as the best small-business market in the United States among cities with fewer than 100,000 people. This comes as no surprise since Bozeman has first-rate public schools, has become a center of science and technology in its home to Montana State University. Bozeman is the kind of community where parents can let children play in the neighborhoods and where people still wave and say hello when one passes them on the street. The experts have now discovered what many of us in Montana already knew: Bozeman is a place with everything a business needs to succeed.

I congratulate the city of Bozeman for becoming the best small business market in the country.

SOCIAL SECURITY MUST BE FIXED

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Social Security must be fixed. It is not a question of whether to do it or how to do it. It is a question of when we do it. Because unless we act now, those workers that are 20 years old now, in their mid-20s, when they retire, the system is going to be bankrupt.

In the 1950s when current retirees were young workers, there were 16 workers supporting every one retiree. Now there are only 3.3 workers per retiree and by 2040 there are only going to be two workers per retiree.

President Bush will outline his ideas to fix Social Security tonight during his State of the Union Address. It is an issue so important to the future of America, to my grandmother as well as future generations of Americans. We must act boldly, and our President tonight will outline his strategy for a lasting solution, not a temporary fix. We must maintain our commitment to those that are at or near retirement age while allowing younger workers such as myself to get a better return on their Social Security investment.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security must be fixed, and it is this Congress and this President this year that will take on this task.

FREE ELECTIONS IN IRAQ

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I dipped my finger in purple ink today in symbolic unity and in support of the free election in Iraq, the first free election in the history of that country. Their actions this weekend were not about America or necessarily an endorsement of everything we are doing, although I think that was an effect of it; but their actions were really about a free country, about democracy, about choice, about self-government and self-determination, throwing off the shackles of oppression and joining the world community. A 57 percent voter turnout in the face and threat of death and destruction. Compare that to America, 61 percent just this November, and it was the highest voting turnout in 38 years. Or in my home county in Savannah, Georgia, Chatham County, the last time we elected a Governor, we had a 48 percent voter turnout and no one was threatened with death or suicide bombers or anything like that.

It took America 7 years to win the Revolutionary War and then it was not until 1789 that we threw out the Articles of Confederation and adopted our Constitution. It has taken us many, many years. For Iraq they have many struggling years ahead, but they have taken a very important first step.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 56) commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 56

Whereas on January 9, 2005, the Palestinian people elected Mahmoud Abbas as the second President of the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas this election has been hailed as free and fair and is an important and noteworthy step in advancing democracy in the Arab world;

Whereas Israel should be commended for facilitating the Palestinian election proceedings;

Whereas the United States is hopeful that a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the security of Israel and its well-being as a Jewish state; and

Whereas on June 24, 2002, President George W. Bush expressed his vision of two states living side by side in peace and security and that vision can only be fully realized when terrorism is defeated, so that a new state may be created based on the rule of law and respect for human rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005;

(2) congratulates the new Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas;

(3) urges the new Palestinian leadership to continue to advance democratic ideals by reforming the Palestinian political structure, advancing human rights, and ending corruption;

(4) strongly condemns terrorism and urges President Mahmoud Abbas, who has previously disavowed terrorism, to immediately take steps to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, confiscate unauthorized weapons, arrest and bring terrorists to justice, consolidate and control the many Palestinian security organizations, and end the incitement to violence and hatred in the Palestinian media, educational institutions, mosques, and other institutions;

(5) urges Arab states to take active steps to encourage and assist the Palestinian Authority in bringing an end to terrorism and an end to anti-Israel incitement in their own media; and

(6) encourages all interested parties to take advantage of this historic opportunity